Spring, 2010 CIS 511

Introduction to the Theory of Computation
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Homework 3

February 18, 2010; Due March 4, 2010,
beginning of class

"A problems" are for practice only, and should not be turned in.

Problem A1. Prove that every finite language is regular.

Problem A2. Sketch an algorithm for deciding whether two regular expressions R, S are equivalent (i,e, whether $\mathcal{L}[R] = \mathcal{L}[S]$).

Problem A3. Given any language $L \subseteq \Sigma^*$, let

$$L^R = \{w^R \mid w \in L\},$$

the *reversal language of* L (where w^R denotes the reversal of the string w). Prove that if L is regular, then L^R is also regular.

Problem B1 (40 pts). (a) Prove again that the intersection, $L_1 \cap L_2$, of two regular languages, L_1 and L_2, is regular, **using the Myhill-Nerode characterization** of regular languages.

(b) Let $h\colon \Sigma^* \to \Delta^*$ be a homomorhism. For any regular language, $L' \subseteq \Delta^*$, prove that $h^{-1}(L')$ is regular, **using the Myhill-Nerode characterization** of regular languages. Prove that the number of states of any minimal DFA for $h^{-1}(L')$ is at most the number of states of any minimal DFA for L'. Can it be strictly smaller?

Problem B2 (40 pts). Let $D = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$ be a deterministic finite automaton. Define the relations $\approx$ and $\sim$ on Σ^* as follows:

$$x \approx y \quad \text{if and only if,} \quad \text{for all} \quad p \in Q,$$
$$\delta^*(p, x) \in F \quad \text{iff} \quad \delta^*(p, y) \in F,$$

and

$$x \sim y \quad \text{if and only if,} \quad \text{for all} \quad p \in Q, \quad \delta^*(p, x) = \delta^*(p, y).$$

(a) Show that $\approx$ is a left-invariant equivalence relation and that $\sim$ is an equivalence relation that is both left and right invariant. (A relation R on Σ^* is *left invariant* iff uRv

implies that $wuRwv$ for all $w \in \Sigma^*$, and R is *right invariant* iff uRv implies that $uwRvw$ for all $w \in \Sigma^*$.)

(b) Let n be the number of states in Q (the set of states of D). Show that $\approx$ has at most 2^n equivalence classes and that $\sim$ has at most n^n equivalence classes.

(c) Given any language $L \subseteq \Sigma^*$, define the relations λ_L and μ_L on Σ^* as follows:

$$u \,\lambda_L\, v \quad \text{iff,} \quad \text{for all} \quad z \in \Sigma^*, \quad zu \in L \quad \text{iff} \quad zv \in L,$$

and

$$u \,\mu_L\, v \quad \text{iff,} \quad \text{for all} \quad x, y \in \Sigma^*, \quad xuy \in L \quad \text{iff} \quad xvy \in L.$$

Prove that λ_L is left-invariant, and that μ_L is left and right-invariant. Prove that if L is regular, then both λ_L and μ_L have a finite number of equivalence classes.

Hint: Show that the number of classes of λ_L is at most the number of classes of $\approx$, and that the number of classes of μ_L is at most the number of classes of $\sim$.

Problem B3 (60 pts). Let L be any regular language over some alphabet Σ. Define the languages

$$\begin{aligned} L^{\infty} &= \bigcup_{k \geq 1} \{w^k \mid w \in L\}, \\ L^{1/\infty} &= \{w \mid w^k \in L, \quad \text{for all } k \geq 1\}, \quad \text{and} \\ \sqrt{L} &= \{w \mid w^k \in L, \quad \text{for some } k \geq 1\}. \end{aligned}$$

Also, for any natural number $k \geq 1$, let

$$L^{(k)} = \{w^k \mid w \in L\},$$

and

$$L^{(1/k)} = \{w \mid w^k \in L\}.$$

(a) Prove that $L^{(1/3)}$ is regular. What about $L^{(3)}$?

(b) Let $k \geq 1$ be any natural number. Prove that there are only finitely many languages of the form $L^{(1/k)} = \{w \mid w^k \in L\}$ and that they are all regular. (In fact, if L is accepted by a DFA with n states, there are at most 2^{n^n} languages of the form $L^{(1/k)}$).

(c) Is $L^{1/\infty}$ regular or not? Is $\sqrt{L}$ regular or not? What about L^{∞}?

Problem B4 (40 pts). Which of the following languages are regular? Justify each answer.

(a) $L_1 = \{wcw \mid w \in \{a, b\}^*\}$

(b) $L_2 = \{xy \mid x, y \in \{a, b\}^* \text{ and } |x| = |y|\}$

(c) $L_3 = \{a^n \mid n \text{ is a prime number}\}$

(d) $L_4 = \{a^m b^n \mid gcd(m, n) = 17\}$.

TOTAL: 180 points.